



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/232,566	01/15/1999	ROLF JANSEN		1686

7590 01/31/2002
ROLF JANSEN
P O BOX 73161
HOUSTON, TX 77273

EXAMINER

VO, TUNG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2613

DATE MAILED: 01/31/2002

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/232,566

Applicant(s)

JANSEN, ROLF

Examiner

Tung T. Vo

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 9/6/00. These drawings are approval.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 3 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

It is noted that the filing date of provisional application is on 01/20/98 that is before the filing date of the Patent US 6,971,468 that is 06/16/98. Therefore, the US Patent 5,971,468 is not the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frankhouse et al. (US 5,940,120) in view of Asakawa et al. (US 5,892,598).

Re claim 3, Frankhouse et al. disclose a vanity console (fig. 10) comprises a camera (96 of fig. 10) is mounted on the outside of a car (10 of fig. 9) for providing a wide angle rear view of traffic of objects behind the vehicle (10 of fig. 9); a display is an LCD display (90 of fig. 10)

Art Unit: 2613

mounted on a housing (24 of fig. 1) for displaying the captured video image by the camera (96), where the captured image is viewed when the driver is backing up the car (10)

It is noted that Franhouse does not specifically disclose the LCD display is mounted on a driver's sunvisor of the car as claimed. However, Asakawa teaches a display is ECD, LCD, DSD, FED or FMD that would be used to display image information; particularly this case is video image information (col. 9, lines 34-39). Asakawa further discloses the LCD would be used in anyplace the interior of an automobile (ABSTRACT), where the LCD would particularly be attached to a sunvisor and pull down forward of the driver's seat as needed (1' of fig. 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Asakawa into the housing (24) of the vanity console of Frankhouse for the same purpose of mounting the LCD on the sunvisor so that the driver easily views the captured video image during backing up the car without turning the driver's head.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aberfelder et al.

(US 5,646,614). *in view of Adv*

Re claim 4, Abersfelder discloses a camera (11 of fig. 1) is built in and located on the back of a car (10 of fig. 1), whereby the camera is located in the ideal at rear of the car for viewing a backing, the camera is connected to a monitor mounted inside the car (15 of fig. 1), and a wide angle lenses are used in this particular camera to receive a wide view image. It is noted that Abersfelder fails to particularly disclose the camera is mounted on the reverse side of a license plate at the rear of the vehicle so that the camera can see through a predetermined-sized hole put in the license plate. However, it is well established that one skilled in the art would have obvious to mount the camera anywhere on the car, particularly on the reverse side of a

Art Unit: 2613

license plate at the rear of the vehicle, and the camera can see through a predetermined-sized hole put in the license plate a rear view when the vehicle is backing.

Abersfelder further teaches any conventional and suitable camera lenses, camera lenses of very compact construction can be used, without the requirement of extending the camera purposes of realizing a sufficient viewing angle (col. 2, lines 16-25). However, Abersfelder does not particularly disclose a pinhole lens that is used for a camera. Aviv teaches a pinhole lens is used for a camera (col. 9, lines 54-65). Taking the teachings of Abersfelder et al and Aviv together as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the pinhole lens of Aviv into the system of Abersfelder for the same purpose of seeing through the predetermined sized hole of license plate.

It is well known in the art that rearrangement of location is easy for artisan to do, therefore, the combination of Abersfelder and Aviv would be mounted on the other side of the license plate of the car without changing any functions and operation of the camera. In re Japikse, 181 F.2d 1019, 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1950).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See the previous Office Action, Paper No. 6.

Art Unit: 2613

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung T. Vo whose telephone number is (703) 308-5874. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM- 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris. Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 303-7000.

Tung T. Vo
Examiner
Art Unit 2613

T.Vo
January 18, 2002